

Wentworth

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PROMPTLY AND NEATLY EXECUTED.

POLITICAL.

ADDRESS

TO THE

Democratic Republican Electors of

the State of Maine.

FELLOW CITIZENS—In pursuance of a vote

of the Democratic State Convention, held in the

city of Portland on the 28th and 29th of June,

A. D. 1849, we take the liberty to submit an

address for your consideration. The Democratic

party has been in power, in this Union, almost

uninterruptedly since the formation of the govern-

ment; and there can be but little doubt that

it is, at the present moment, in a majority in the

Senate. Yet the administration of national af-

airs, so far as the Executive is concerned, is in

the hands of our opponents.

Under these circumstances, the present time

may be regarded most favorable, to present for

the consideration of the people, some of the im-

portant issues and purposes of the party now in

power. When these are well considered, it will

be for the democracy of the nation to determine

the degree of compromise and support that

should be given to the present administration.

At a very early period of the government,

leading statesmen took opposite ground upon

important measures of administration. There

was then, as at the present time, a wide differ-

ence in their views concerning the

FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Upon this subject Mr. Jefferson writes,—"I

returned from that mission, this mission to

France, in the first year of the new govern-

ment, having landed in Virginia in December,

1789, to enter on the office of Secretary of

State. Here certainly, I found a state of things

which I had never contemplated. I had ex-

pected, Hamilton's financial system, I had

expected, that it would be a puzzle to

exclude popular understanding and enquiry.

But, for his avowed opinion, that the

country would be governed by the masses, and

that the people would be the great power, I

was not prepared. I was not prepared to see

the Executive, and the Legislature, and the

people, all in a state of confusion, and all

in a state of confusion, and all in a state of

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the necessity of embracing the earliest moment

to make such a demonstration at the polls as will

deter unprincipled men from undertaking a de-

mure of our democratic administration.

The annexation of adjacent territory was an-

other of the early subject of controversy between

the democratic and anti-democratic party in the

United States, and has continued to be a sub-

ject of controversy to the present time. It has

filled a very large space in the public mind of

present consideration. Some instances of notice

of territory are also deserving of notice.

We therefore ask the indulgence of our demo-

cratic fellow-citizens, while we call the attention

to the

POLICY PURSUED BY OUR OPPONENTS IN RE-

LATION TO THE ACQUISITION AND RELIN-

QUISHMENT OF TERRITORY.

It may be said with little qualification that

upon all questions of territory, the opposition to

the democracy have arrayed themselves in op-

position—upon all questions of relinquishment

they have ever stood ready to relinquish.

This Union is a great nation of freemen, and

freemen, whose duty is to extend, as far as prac-

ticable, the great principle of liberty.

It should ever be a point of honor with the

democracy to alienate none of its domain—and in

our judgment there are two important reasons

can be done honorably and without an unrec-

usable expenditure of the national treasure.

1st. When we extend the boundaries of our

country, we furnish for our citizens a larger

field of enterprise.

2d. We extend the only permanent demo-

cratic government on the continent, and there-

fore furnish more room for the poor of other lands

who may desire to enjoy the blessings of our ex-

cellent laws.

Our acquisitions may indeed be regarded as

acts of patriotism and philanthropy. These not

concurrent with our political history, will think

impossible the conduct we ascribe to the anti-

democratic party of the Union; but we are

ready to show that what we assert in relation to

the part taken by our opponents in the acqui-

sition and relinquishment of territory, is true.

Far be it from us to do injustice to those who

have ever felt it our duty to oppose. De-

termined to do no injustice, we purpose to look

into the record. We ask no credence in this

matter, to general assertions, unsupported by

proof.

After the nation gained its independence, the

first great territorial question was the acquisition

of Louisiana. Prior to the acquisition of this

territory, there was no lack of information as

to its value. In 1802, it contained but few

settlements, there being not over 10,000 in the

city of New Orleans. Yet its natural resources

were well understood by the people of the En-

glish States. It was asserted by the press, and

the most undoubted authority, that from the

Mississippi and its branches, would be annually

discharged a greater variety of, and more value

in the produce, than even the whole of the Dan-

ube river, in the most fertile country.

It was declared that New Orleans, considering the ad-

vantages of its situation, but a few leagues from

sea, on a noble river, in a most fertile country,

with a moral certainty of its becoming a general

receptacle for the produce of that extensive and

valuable country on the Mississippi, Ohio, and

adjacent country, would become a great and

important city. How far these anticipations have

been realized, is now seen. Between one and

two millions of people already inhabit the ter-

ritory purchased from France. We will not dwell

upon its productions and exports. They are, as

every American knows, immense. Thou-

sands of the vessels of the North are constantly

engaged in transporting these productions along

This territory was relinquished after the Exe-

cutive and Congress of the United States had re-

linquished our claim in its full extent. It is no

part of our purpose, at this late date, to argue

our title to the soil thus improperly yielded to

the British Government. Indeed the convic-

tion that no foreign government should have been

permitted to "remove our landmarks." The

surrender of this territory was much against

the wishes of the State of Maine. The citizens

of our State were never guilty of any lack of

zeal or courage in endeavoring to defend it.

The nation witnessed what they were ready to

do on one occasion. Thousands of our people

marched to the frontiers in the middle of winter

and drove back the invaders of our soil. It will

be recollected by all, with what glowing in-

spiration Sir John Harvey, at that occasion threat-

ened to expel our forces; and with what dignity

and courage the lamented Fairfield rebuked the ex-

traneous language of the British Governor—

"It is not that our forces would not be remov-

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